

28. The single modular structure of claim 24 wherein said box structure is fire resistant and sound dampening foam.

29. The single modular structure of claim 24 further comprising a light and shelf built into the first volume.

30. A single portable shelter unit comprising an elongate plastic water-tight structure having generally curved sidewalls and a flat bottom in combination with a bulkhead defining a first interior volume sized only large enough for a single adult to crawl in and rest in a reclined position, and said sidewalls extending to an opposing end portion in combination with the bulkhead defining a second interior volume not accessible from inside the first interior volume, the unit having opposing ends with openings in the first and second interior volumes and doors sized only large enough to provide access for the single adult, and the unit configured for tying together a plurality of similar portable units without additional support structure not part of the units.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004. In that Office Action the Examiner first objected to the

Finally, all the claims were rejected as obvious primarily in view of the Heifetz '528 and Neilson '376 references. The rejections were made final. Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner and his supervisor for several telephone discussions which took place in recent weeks to discuss the claims and prior art.

Enclosed herewith is Applicant's Request for Continued Examination and payment of another filing fee of \$385 (for a small entity). No additional fees are believed due at this time. If any additional fees are due, please charge Applicant's representative's deposit account.

A new set of claims is being propounded to more clearly define the invention. Addressing each of the primary references cited against the previous claims, Heifetz is a much larger scale, walk in building requiring on site assembly and with interior openings between the rooms, and generally nonanalogous art. Nielsen is a cluster of entirely cylindrical compartments mounted on a base and assembly of vertical and horizontal support members and cross braces, the compartments each having a large longitudinal opening.

In stark contrast, Applicant's invention as claimed offers key advantages of being sized right, truly portable, fast and easy to set up (in compact clusters if desired, including toilets, showers, etc.), providing separate storage of personal belongings, and greater privacy for users with the smaller doors at opposing ends (the modules can be tied together and positioned with the sleeping compartment doors not immediately adjacent one another).

Additionally, please see the letters of support from housing authorities in California previously faxed in on June 1, 2004, as well as the petition signed by nearly 200 homeless persons as to the need for the invention faxed on June 3, 2004. Such evidence constitutes secondary considerations in support of nonobviousness.

Appl. Serial No. 10/083,178

Amendment Dated July 1, 2004


Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2004

Applicant requests that a notice of allowance be issued in this case. Please contact the undersigned with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

LAUSON & ASSOCIATES

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RL' or 'R. Lauson', written over a horizontal line.

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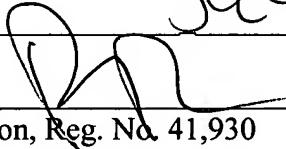
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2004

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